

## Message Text

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50/51

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 FBO-02 OMB-01 PER-01

USSS-00 /091 W

----- 128819

O 301255Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4032

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PMUORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

A SLBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY 0002

AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRVITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION VARIOUS CORRECTIONS

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THROUGHOUT TEXT)

ABIDJAN FOR RSO

EMO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC MR

SUBJECT: EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT RECEIVES BOMB THREAT

1. NOUAKCHOTT OFFICE OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL MORNING JUNE 30 WHICH INDICATED BOMB WOULD EXPLODE AT AMERICAN EMBASSY FIVE MINUTES FROM TIME OF CALL. DETAILED SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOLLOWS:

1015 - MRS. MITTERAND, WIFE OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSEE BUREAU CHIEF TELEPHONED DCM AT EMBASSY, WARNING THAT SHE HAD JUST RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM ANONYMOUS FEMALE WHO ANNOUNCED THAT "BOMB WOULD EXPLODE AT AMERICAN EMBASSY IN FIVE MINUTES".

1016 - AMERICANS WERE IN STAFF MEETING AT TIME OF CALL. ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF--AMERICAN AND FSLS--WERE IMMEDIATELY EVACUATED TO OPEN LAWN AREAS OF EMBASSY COMPOUND.

1017 - DCM WENT TO HOME OF MRS. MITTERAND IN EFFORT TO LEARN ADDITIONAL DETAILS. MRS. MITTERAND SAID CALLER WAS DEFINITELY FEMALE AND SPOKE FRENCH BADLY. CALLER HUNG UP IMMEDIATELY AFTER ANNOUNCING BOMB WOULD EXPLODE.

1025 - DCM DROVE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (OUTSIDE TELEPHONE LINE CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED TODAY FROM SWITCHBOARD IN EVACUATED CHANCERY BUILDING) AND ASKED TO SEE SECRETARY GENERAL URGENTLY. SEC.GEN. WAS BUSY BUT TOURE BADRA ALY, CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMBASSY AFFAIRS, IMMEDIATELY SAW DCM. TOURE CALLED SURETE AND INFORMED DCM THAT SOMEONE FROM SURETE WOULD ARRIVE AT EMBASSY ASAP.

1040 - EMB. OFFICERS SCoured AREA OUTSIDE EMBASSY. TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES AFTER FIRST ALER, ADMIN OFFICER, ASSISTED BY TWO AMERICANS AND LONE MAURITANIAN CHAR WORKER, BEGAN THOROUGH SEARCH OF CHANCERY. DETAILED SEARCH OF ALL SPACES AND FURNITURE REVEALED NOTHING UNUSUAL.

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1105 - GOVERNOR OF NOUAKCHOTT ARRIVED AND INFORMED AMB. THAT BOMB DISPOSAL SPECIALISTS WOULD BE COMING.

1110 - TOURE TELEPHONED EMBASSY IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN IF GIRM OFFICIALS HAD ARRIVED.

1115 - ABOUT FOUR POLICEMEN ARRIVED AT EMBASSY.

1140 - ADDITIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL (PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND NATIONAL GUARD) ARRIVED AND MADE CHECK OF COMPOUND.

1200 - MOST SECURITY PERSONNEL DEPARTED. STAFF REENTERED CHANCERY. POLICE DETAIL WAS LEFT ON DUTY OUTSIDE EMBASSY COMPOUND. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT DETAIL WILL REMAIN UNTIL AFTER JULY 4.

2. SEVERAL DAYS AGO EMB. REQUESTED POLICE PROTECTION FOR JULY 4 RECEPTION. AMB. TOOK OCCASION OF PRESENCE KEY GIRM SECURITY PERSONNEL TO REITERATE REQUEST; INFORM THEM OF INDICATION OF TROUBLE AROUND JULY 4, AND OUTLINE BRIEFLY SEVERAL OF THE MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO ENHANCE SECURITY OF COMPOUND AND CHANCERY IN WAKE OF ATTACK ON FRG CHANCERY IN STOCKHOLM. FYI FOLLOWING MIT VISIT WE MADE COMPLETE REVIEW OF OUR SECURITY PROCEDURES. END FYI.

3. WE WILL BE SENDING FOLLOWUP NOTE TO FON. MIN. WHICH (A) EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR RELATIVELY SPEEDY, IN MAURITANIAN CONTEXT, ASSISTANCE FROM SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND (B) REMINDS GIRM THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION OF MISSION PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY.

4. COMMENT: SO FAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION OF PERPETRATOR OF BOMB THREAT. AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN ON POINT OF CALLING DEPARTMENTAL WARNING CONTAINED REFTEL CONCERNING INCIDENTS RELATED TO JULY 4 ACTIVITIES TO ATTENTION ASSEMBLED AMERICAN STAFF WHEN CALL CAME. JUNE 30 SEEMS, HOWEVER, TO BE A LITTLE EARLY TO GIVE RISE TO BOMB THREAT ASSOCIATED WITH JULY 4. DEPT. WILL RECALL THAT EL FATAH HAS OFFICE IN NOUAKCHOTT HEADED BY A PARTICULARLY SURLY INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED HIS OPEN DISLIKE FOR US AND AMERICANS. MOREOVER, EL FATAH HAS BEEN ACCORDED POUCH FACILITY BY GIRM AND COULD EASILY BRING UNDETECTED WEAPON OR BOMB IN TO MAURITANIA. ALTHOUGH NORTH VIETNAMESE, NORTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KOREANS, PRG OF SOUTH VIETNAM, AND GRUNK ARE ALSO LOCATED IN NOUAKCHOTT, WE BELIEVE EVENTS OF PAST THREE MONTHS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY LESSENED POSSIBILITY ONE OF THESE MISSIONS MIGHT INSTIGATE BOMB THREAT.

ACCORDING TO LONG-TIME LOCAL EMPLOYEE, THIS IS SECOND OCCASION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SECURITY THREAT SINCE IT REOPENED IN 1971. FIRST INCIDENT OCCURED IN 1971 WHEN UNIDENTIFIED MALE TELEPHONED EMBASSY AND ANNOUNCED THERE WOULD BE KIDNAPPING OF SOMEONE FROM EMBASSY. NOTHING HAPPENED.

BOMB DETECTION SPECIALISTS DID NOT ARRIVE AT EMBASSY. COMMANDER OF NATIONAL GUARD LATER TOLD AMBASSADOR HE THOUGH ARMY ENGINEERS HAD A US-MADE EXPLOSIVES DETECTION DEVICE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY BOMB DETECTION SPECIALISTS DID NOT COME. OF ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL

TO ARRIVE AT COMPOUND, ONLY PRESIDENTIAL GUARD SEEMED TO KNOW  
WHAT IT WAS DOING. IN FACT, WE HAD IMPRESSION IT MAY HAVE GONE  
THROUGH SIMILAR EXERCISES IN PAST.HANDYSIDE

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